

Auxiliary soldiers: Romans-to-be

Tombstones of migrating soldiers

Look at these three tombs of Roman soldiers, all of whom started as foreign, non-citizen auxiliaries.

Source 1: Valerius Genialis

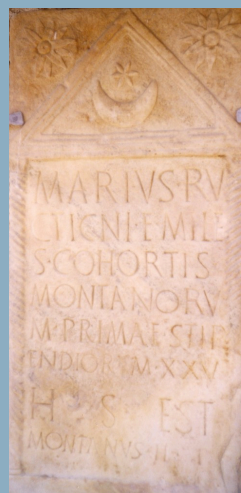


Corinium Museum

Sextus Valerius Genialis, trooper of the cavalry regiment of Thracians, a Frisian tribesman, from the troop of Genialis, aged 40, of 20 years' service, lies buried here. His heir had this set up.

This tombstone was found in Cirencester, suggesting that this might be where Genialis ultimately settled.

Source 2: Marius son of Ructinus



Magdalensberg Museum (Austria)

This is the tombstone of the Roman soldier Marius son of Ructinus, from the Cohors I Montanorum at Magdalensberg in Austria. He died in his 25th year of service.

Notice the two edelweiss blossoms at the top.

Source 3: Calidius Severus



Titus Calidius Severus, son of Publius, of the Camilia (voting) Tribe, an eques (then) optio and decurion of the Cohors 1 Alpinorum, and then centurion of the Legion XV Apollinaris, Aged 58 years, served 34 years died. He lies here. Quintus Calidius his brother put this up.

Calidius Severus served twice; first as a non-citizen in an auxiliary unit, presumably for the 25 years required for acquiring Roman citizenship; and then the remaining nine years as a regular centurion for XV Apollinaris. He was most likely from a local Pannonian family (modern Austria).

Museum of Carnuntum, Austria.

What aspects of their identity and ethnic origin do these soldiers' tombstones commemorate through their inscriptions and icons?